

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EAGR, ETRD, IT

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRAIN AND OIL TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH
THE USSR

REF: STATE 249528

1. ECOMIN OCTOBER 21 MADE REPRESENTATIONS REQUESTED
REFTEL (PARA 5) TO MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS RICCIULLI AND FOLLOWED UP LATER IN DAY
WITH MFA ENERGY COORDINATOR MIGLIUOLO. BOTH NOTED
POINTEDS, PARTICULARLY SMALL AMOUNT OF PETROLEUM
POTENTIALLY INVOLVED, BUT MADE NO RPT NO SUBSTANTIVE
COMMENT. MIGLIUOLO OBSERVED THAT ITALY ALREADY
IMPORTS PETROLEUM FROM USSR (AMOUNTING IN 1974 TO
3.6 MILLION METRIC TONS; IN 1973 TO 7.0 MILLION
METRIC TONS). AGRATTACHE' FORWARDED INFO ON GRAIN
AGREEMENT TO MINAGR AND ITALIAN GRAIN IMPORTERS ASSN.

2. DOMESTIC ITALIAN PRESS COVERAGE EXTENSIVE.
COVERAGE HIGHLY FAVORABLE TO US; NORMALLY SOBER FINANCIAL
DAILY IL SOLE/24 ORE HEADLINED "IN THE GRAIN-OIL GRAND
'SLAM' OF THE UNITED STATES BEATS THE SOVIET UNION".
DETAILS OF AGREEMENT REPORTED FACTUALLY BY MOST IMPORTANT
PAPERS INCLUDING COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY L'UNITA', LEFT
CENTER PRESTIGIOUS DAILIES LA STAMPA AND CORRIERE DELLA
SERA. ECONOMIC PRESS PROVIDED MORE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE
AND COMMENT. OCCASTION WAS USED TO EMPHASIZE STRENGTH
OF US AGRICULTURE, BUT POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF US
TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOP SOVIET ENERGY RESOURCES CITED AS
WELL. LA STAMPA OCTOBER 22 COMMENTED THAT AGREEMENT WOULD
STRENGTHEN BREZNEV'S POSITION IN THE USSR, BUT IL SOLE/24
ORE SUGGESTED THAT USSR WAS DEALING FROM WEAKNESS, CITING
THAT AGREEMENT ON PETROLEUM WHICH, EVEN THOUGH
TENUOUS, MUST HAVE WORRIED THE USSR'S
ARAB FRIENDS AND POSSIBLE USSR NEED TO BALANCE COST
OF US GRAIN. US DOMESTIC REACTION, PARTICULARLY
THAT OF AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY (IN FAVOR) AND
FARM INTERESTS (AGAINST) COVERED AS WELL. VOLPE

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